

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /160 W
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R 280742Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4216

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14817

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SHELEPIN ON MIDDLE EAST, U.S.-SOVIDO RELATIONS

REF: A. MELBOURNE 1221

B. MOSCOW 14646 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR LAWRIE CALLED ON ME NOVEMBER 26 (BEFORE REF A RECEIVED) AND MENTIONED ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE'S VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH LAWRIE WAS NOT PRESENT AT HAWKE'S MEETING WITH POLITBURO MEMBER ALEKSANDR (NOT BORIS) SHELEPIN, HE HAD DISCUSSED MEETING IN DETAIL WITH HAWKE AND GOT IMPRESSION THAT SHELEPIN WAS TOUGHER ON MIDDLE EAST THAN WHEN HAWKE LAST SAW HIM IN MOSCOW IN 1971.

2. UPON RECEIPT OF REF A, EMBOFF TOUCHED BASE AGAIN WITH AUSTRALIANS AND CONFIRMED THEIR READING THAT SOVIETS WERE QUITE NEGATIVE TO HAWKE ON PROSPECTS FOR RESTORATION OF SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE. SHELEPIN REPORTEDLY TOOK POSITION THAT U.S. RESUMPTION OF
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RELATIONS WITH EGYPT WAS "THEIR OWN BUSINESS" BUT

MOSCOW WOULD NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO FOLLOW SUIT WITH
TEL AVIV. THIS SQUARES WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
SOVIET POSITION (REF B), AND SUGGESTS IT WOULD BE
UNWISE TO READ TOO MUCH INTO SHELEPIN'S UNDERSTANDABLE
PROBING INTO HAWKE'S DISCUSSION WITH MRS. MEIR.

3. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT OF HAWKE'S CONVERSATION WAS
SHELEPIN'S REMARKS ON THE U.S. SHELEPIN FOLLOWED
CURRENT LINE THAT U.S. HANDLING OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOST PART, BUT THERE WAS NO
JUSTIFICATION FOR TROOP ALERT. HE FELT U.S.-SOVIET
DETENTE WAS STILL STRONG AND PRAISED THE PRESIDENT'S
POLICY TOWARD THE USSR. WHEN DISCUSSION TURNED TO
WATERGATE, SHELEPIN VENTURED OPINION THAT PRESIDENT
NIXON WOULD WEATHER THE PROBLEM.
DUBS

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